Anna Yojana (AAY) families will be provided 40 quintals of foodgrains by Government of India as one time grant. Besides the foodgrains, Rs. 1800.00 as transportation cost, Rs. 1400.00 as training expenses, Rs. 6000.00 as expenses for storage, weights and scales, etc. and Rs. 3000.00 as monitoring and administrative cost will also be provided by the Central Government for each bank. The banks will be managed by an Executive Committee, comprising of 3-4 members of the bank including at least one women. The grain banks are to be established by Gram Sabha/ Panchayats, Self Help Groups or Non Government Organizations (NGOs) in villages notified by the State Governments as food scarce areas. The Executive Committee of the grain bank will lend foodgrains to its members as and when required, maintain the account and ensure recovery of foodgrains as per the laid down procedure.

(c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

(d) One grain bank of (average) 40 members will be provided 40 quintals of foodgrains (rice, wheat or coarse grain/millets) for allocation to its members@ one quintal per family.

(e) and (f) Millets/coarse grains have been included for allocation but pulses are not proposed to be provided to the banks.

Delay in issuing Ration Cards in Delhi

1095. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ration cards are being renewed or issued afresh to the consumers in about 40 to 60 days after date of submission of application forms, in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for this undue delay;

(c) whether the new ration cards are being issued through computerization of records; and

(d) the details of manner in which the new system of computerization will be able to eliminate the unlawful ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir. New/fresh APL cards are issued within 15 days. However, renewal of ration cards takes 40/60 days. At present, no fresh BPL cards are being issued. Application for identification of families under

the Antyodaya Anna Yojana are being received up to 31.12.2005 and the cards would be issued to the identified AAY families within 30 days.

(b) The renewal of all the existing ration cards is done after every five years. The physical verfication of the application forms submitted for renewal of existing ration cards in time consuming. The physical verification is considered necessary to ensure issue of ration cards to the bona-fide consumers of the respective category.

(c) Yes Sir, the new Ration Cards are being issued through computerization of records.

(d) The Computerization will lead to creation of bilingual database for the Public Distribution System. The software being developed will have the facilities of search by name and address, which would facilitate preparation of fresh ration cards by ensuring that there are no duplicate/ bogus ration cards. Each application received for issue of ration card would be given a unique number for further enquiry.

Grain Banks in Natural Calamities prone Areas

1096. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up grain banks in the areas prone to natural calamities where transactions are made with foodgrain and not money;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government want to set up 5,416 grain banks in the country; and

(c) if so, the expected cost of setting up the grain banks and how they will function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to set up about 3471 grain banks during 2005-2006 in the country.

(c) The estimated cost of setting up of each grain bank is Rs. 60,000.00 including Rs. 1800.00 to be born by the State Government as 50% share of transport cost. Each Grain Bank of (average) 40 Below Poverty Line (BPL). Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families will be provided 40 quintals of foodgrains by Government of India as one time grant. Besides the foodgrains, Rs. 1800.00 as transportation cost, Rs. 1400.00 as training expenses, Rs. 6000.00 as expenses for storage, weights and scales, etc.